

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. For use in a processor having an at least four-wide instruction issue architecture, a mechanism for pipeline processing multiply-accumulate instructions with out-of-order completion, comprising:

a multiply-accumulate unit (MAC) having an initial multiply stage and a subsequent accumulate stage; and

out-of-order completion logic, associated with said MAC, that causes interim results produced by said multiply stage to be stored when said accumulate stage is unavailable and allows younger instructions to complete before said multiply-accumulate instructions.

2. The mechanism as recited in Claim 1 wherein said initial multiply stage and said subsequent accumulate stage are single clock cycle stages.

3. The mechanism as recited in Claim 1 wherein said out-of-order completion logic is contained in a writeback stage of a pipeline in said processor.

4. The mechanism as recited in Claim 1 wherein said out-of-
2 order completion logic writes back said interim results to at least
3 one register in said MAC before said multiply-accumulate
4 instructions arrive at said accumulation stage of said MAC.

5. The mechanism as recited in Claim 1 wherein said interim
2 results are unavailable to an external program executing in said
3 processor.

6. The mechanism as recited in Claim 1 wherein grouping
2 logic within said processor groups said multiply-accumulate
3 instructions based on said mechanism.

7. The mechanism as recited in Claim 1 wherein said
2 processor is a digital signal processor.

8. For use in a processor having an at least four-wide
instruction issue architecture, a method of pipeline processing
multiply-accumulate instructions with out-of-order completion,
comprising:
providing a multiply-accumulate unit (MAC) having an initial
multiply stage and a subsequent accumulate stage;
causing interim results produced by said multiply stage to be
stored when said accumulate stage is unavailable; and
allowing younger instructions to complete before said
multiply-accumulate instructions.

9. The method as recited in Claim 8 wherein said initial
multiply stage and said subsequent accumulate stage are single
clock cycle stages.

10. The method as recited in Claim 8 wherein said causing is
carried out in a writeback stage of a pipeline in said processor.

11. The method as recited in Claim 8 wherein said causing
comprises writing back said interim results to at least one
register in said MAC before said multiply-accumulate instructions
arrive at said accumulation stage of said MAC.

12. The method as recited in Claim 8 wherein said interim
2 results are unavailable to an external program executing in said
3 processor.

13. The method as recited in Claim 8 further comprising
2 grouping said multiply-accumulate instructions based on said
3 mechanism.

14. The method as recited in Claim 8 wherein said processor
2 is a digital signal processor.

15. A digital signal processor (DSP), comprising:

2 a pipeline having stages and capable of processing multiply-
3 accumulate instructions;

4 an instruction issue unit containing grouping logic and at
5 least four-wide instruction issue logic;

6 a multiply-accumulate unit (MAC), coupled to said instruction
7 issue logic, having an initial multiply stage and a subsequent
8 accumulate stage; and

9 out-of-order completion logic, associated with said pipeline,
10 that causes interim results produced by said multiply stage to be
11 stored when said accumulate stage is unavailable and allows younger
12 instructions to complete before said multiply-accumulate
13 instructions.

16. The DSP as recited in Claim 15 wherein said initial
2 multiply stage and said subsequent accumulate stage are single
3 clock cycle stages.

17. The DSP as recited in Claim 15 wherein said out-of-order
2 completion logic is contained in a writeback stage of said
3 pipeline.

18. The DSP as recited in Claim 15 wherein said out-of-order
2 completion logic writes back said interim results to at least one
3 register in said MAC before said multiply-accumulate instructions
4 arrive at said accumulation stage of said MAC.

19. The DSP as recited in Claim 15 wherein said interim
2 results are unavailable to an external program executing in said
3 DSP.

20. The DSP as recited in Claim 15 wherein said grouping
2 logic groups said multiply-accumulate instructions based on said
3 mechanism.